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Restore La. Lafayette and Monroe Housing Assistance Centers to Scale Back Hours Starting Nov. 28

Today, the Office of Community Development announced that the Restore Louisiana Housing Assistance Centers in Lafayette and Monroe will reduce hours of operation starting Nov. 28, 2018, and the Lafayette Housing Assistance Center will be relocated. In the Lafayette area, case managers will be available at the Lafayette Public Library – East Regional Branch in Youngsville at 215 La Neuville Road on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. In Monroe, case managers will be available in the same location, the Old State

Farm Building at 24 Accent Drive, on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All homeowners currently being served by the Lafayette and Monroe Housing Assistance Centers will still be able to maintain daily correspondence with program staff by email and phone for the duration of their participation in the program. At this time there is no change in hours of operation for the Baton Rouge and Hammond Housing Assistance Centers anticipated.

"We remain strongly committed to ensuring that applicants in all flood-impacted communities are able to receive services needed from the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program," said Pat Forbes, Executive Director of the Office of Community Development. "Going forward, we are optimistic about the program's progress as we approach the application deadline, and we will continue evaluating our delivery of program services in order to best serve homeowners affected by the March and August 2016 floods."

The program survey, which was reopened by Gov. Edwards on Sept. 24, is now closed. The survey was reopened in response to recent federal legislation addressing the policy that considers Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to be a Duplication of Benefits (DOB) for federal grant funds. Since reopening, more than 2,479 new surveys were submitted during the four-week campaign.

The program application deadline is set for Nov. 16, 2018. For further assistance regarding all aspects of the program, including completing the application, homeowners may contact the program by calling (866) 735-2001 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by emailing info@restore-la.org.

To date, 56,210 homeowners have completed the initial program survey and nearly 45,600 homeowners have qualified for assistance based on their survey responses. Over 39,400 applications have been processed and determinations made, and more than 14,800 eligible homeowners have been offered grant awards totaling nearly \$507 million.

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The Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program is an initiative to provide assistance to Louisiana homeowners affected by the floods of 2016. With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provided via community development block grants, the program is designed to assist qualifying homeowners with recovery efforts. It is managed by the Office of Community Development. More information is available at <u>restore.la.gov</u>.